

Claude Moore Park Braddock Event: 250th Commemoration of the French & Indian War Encampment Along Vestal's Gap Road

Event Information:



Vestal's Gap Road at Claude Moore Park

It is Claude Moore Park's pleasure to announce that Waggener's Company of the Virginia Regiment will be hosting a living history encampment this April at Claude Moore Park in Loudon County, Virginia (www.loudoun.gov/prcs/parks/claude.htm) to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the march of Braddock's Army to Fort Duquesne in the spring of 1755. This encampment will be the only Virginia Braddock 250th event on a portion of the original Braddock road (Vestal's Gap Road) over which the 44th Regiment, Virginia Provincials, and Independent Company troops passed on their way to Winchester.

The event runs April 1 and 2, 2005; Friday is dedicated to local school group field trips and homeschoolers, while Saturday is open to both Boy and Girl Scouts and the general public. The event runs 9 AM-2 PM on both days, rain or shine. Admission fee will be \$2 per person. All school groups, homeschoolers, and scouts need to make a reservation prior to Friday, March 25, 2005. To make your reservation, please contact Claude Moore Park at 703-444-1275, Monday-Friday, 9 AM-5 PM or via claudemoore@loudoun.gov.

The encampment will feature a military encampment, earthen camp kitchen, a laundry, and presentations on Civilians and Provisions for Braddock's Army. Medical displays, 18th century surveying displays, and a walking tour of Vestal's Gap Road will also be available. During the 9 AM-2 PM daily schedule, there will be artillery firings at three-quarters past the hour, each hour, and on Saturday, there will be participatory marching drills for children and youth at 10:30 AM and 1 PM.

Reenactor Info:

Acceptable Impressions & Contacts:

We are actively soliciting authenticity-minded reenactors who can offer impressions that are appropriate to Braddock's Army and associated civilians. For more information please contact Jim Mullins (virginiaregiment@hotmail.com). The following list includes the acceptable impressions and the person who is the point of contact for that impression or interpretive area. Specific questions on these impressions should be addressed to the point of contact listed below.

-44th Regiment of Foot (laced red coat faced yellow, linen smallclothes): for more information contact Ryan Gale (rrgale@msn.com).

-Independent Company (unlaced madder red coat faced popinjay green): for more information contact Jeff Wells (jeffreydwells@hotmail.com).

NOTE: The SC Ind. Co. is not scheduled to attend and this link is for impression information purposes only.

-Virginia Carpenters & Rangers (blue coat faced red, red waistcoats and blue breeches): for more information contact Jim Mullins (virginiaregiment@hotmail.com).

-Royal Artillery (blue coats faced red, yellow lace): for more information contact Artillery Coordinator/Safety Officer Charlie Phillips (charles.phillips@adelphia.net).

-Waggoners, Batmen & Camp Followers (1750s Civilian clothes): for more information contact Civilian Coordinator, Anna Kiefer (akiefer@cisunix.unh.edu).

Clothing Materials:

Generally, wool, linen, hemp, linsey-woolsey, fustian, jean cloth (wool/cotton blend), and cotton are the appropriate fabrics depending on impression. Under no circumstances should synthetics be used.

Fires:

Campfires are only permitted in the camp kitchen.

Muskets & Firearms:

Only British or Dutch Style Flintlocks are permitted at this event.

Unacceptable items:

Modern footwear, modern glasses, camp furniture (for enlisted military portrayals), lantern stands, kitchen or dining flies (for military portrayals), non-period cookware, including speckle ware, plastic items or ground cloths, cots or sleeping bags, metal campfire irons, visible non-period foodstuffs, visible modern food packaging including beverage cans are unacceptable and will not be permitted at this event.

Personal Appearance:

All participants will portray individuals appropriate to their age and gender; facial hair beyond three days growth is unacceptable.

Officers:

Only those individuals appointed field rank by the event coordinator may field as officers unless appointed to such a capacity by a registered unit fielding at least 12 rank-and-file (in which case the unit is allowed one officer).

Tents and Encampment:

British-style, bell-backed tents are acceptable; other tents must be approved by the event coordinator on a case-by-case basis. Participants should strive to portray an army on the march with minimal "extras." No fires will be permitted anywhere on site outside of the designated camp kitchen area.

"...All the Tents to be pitched upon the left of the Artillery immediatley. 1 Corpl & 8 men to mount Guard & to put two Centrys upon the Forrage & one uon the Rear of the Artillery & Baggage. The Officers Servts to Attend immediatley to get Forrage for Their Masters Horses. The Engineers & Pioners to march to morrow at 8 oClock..."
Halkett April 29 Mr. Minors

"...Sir Peter Halket with six companies of the 44th, two independant companies and the Virginia troops were already encamped at this place..." (Virginia-Philadelphia Wagon Road)
Orme, April 31, 1755

Historical Background:

In 1755, a British and Colonial army pushed into the Pennsylvania backcountry in order to lay siege to the French Fort Duquesne, situated at the Forks of the Ohio in present Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. The Army was composed of a mixture of British Regulars from the Irish establishment (the 44th and 48th Foot, and American Independent Companies), a detachment of Seamen, Provincial soldiers from Virginia, North Carolina and Maryland as well as a locally recruited companies of Carpenters, Waggoners and Camp followers and cut a wagon road through the wilderness as they went. Important American figures such as George Washington, Thomas Gage, Daniel Morgan and Daniel Boone participated in the Expedition. Braddock's Army was shattered in a fierce fight a short distance from Duquesne by an inferior French and Indian Force on July 7, 1755.

A Brief History of the Claude Moore Park [Site](#)

(This can be found at: http://inetdocs.loudoun.gov/prcs/events/claudemoorespark_/timelineoflanes/timelineoflanes.doc .)

Links of Interest:

NPS Braddock site: <http://www.nps.gov/fone/braddock.htm>

General Information on the Battle of the Monongahela: <http://www.britishbattles.com/braddock.htm>

Information on Braddock Sites and routes: www.braddocksmarch.org

Carlyle House in Alexandria, Virginia: www.carlylehouse.org

Waggener's Company of the Virginia Regiment: www.virginiaregiment.org

French and Indian War Commemoration: www.frenchandindianwar250.org



Contacts:

Event Coordinator: Jim Mullins (virginiaregiment@hotmail.com)

Site Manager: Pam Sheets (PSHEETS@loudoun.gov)

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